

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 250944Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041

INFO USUN 1718

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN PR ET

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 198365

1. DCM TOOK OCCASION OF COURTESY CALL AUGUST 22 ON TEFAYE MEKASHA, VICE MINISTER, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, MOFA, TO EXPRESS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT EPMG WAS UNABLE SUPPORT EVEN A POSTPONEMENT OF PUERTO RICAN PROBLEM IN COMMITTEE OF 24 DESPITE OUR GOOD RELATIONS AND DESPITE OTHER NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT.

2. TEFAYE TWICE TOLD DCM HOW SORRY HE WAS THAT EPMG DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD DO SO, AND SAID THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT HAD A SPECIAL PROBLEM IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. HE THEN SAID IN TENTATIVE AND CONFUSING WAY THAT EPMG FINDS THIS AN AWKWARD ISSUE BECAUSE THEY CAN SEE SOME PARALLELS WITH ERITREAN PROBLEM. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, EPMG FELT BEST COURSE WAS SIMPLY NOT TO BE PRESENT FOR VOTE. FONMIN HAD MADE SAME STATEMENT EARLIER, AND IN BOTH INSTANCES EMBOFFS HAVE RESPONDED THAT WE DO NOT SEE PARALLELED, BUT IF EPMG DOES SEE ONE, LOGIC WOULD DICTATE THAT EPMG SHOULD VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY UN RESOLUTION ON EITHER TOPIC.

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NEITHER FONMIN NOR TEFAYE WAS WILLING TO BE DRAWN FURTHER. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE WE CAN GET FURTHER

REASONING BEHIND THIS ODD TWIST IN EPMG THINKING, BUT WE
WILL TRY. PERHAPS BEST EXPLANATION IS THAT UNIFORMED
MILITARY DIRG OFFICERS BEHIND THE SCENES MAY HAVE
RAISED THIS ANGLE WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH. FYI
FONMIN KIFLE IS BEDRIDDEN AGAIN WITH GOUT AND THEREFORE
HIS DEPARTURE FROM LIMA CONFERENCE IS DELAYED. WE DOUBT
WE WILL HAVE CHANCE TO SEE HIM BEFORE HE DEPARTS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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